

# History 348

## World War I: Origins, Experience, Aftermath

Dr. Paul W. Werth  
T-Th 8.30 – 9.45, WRI C-301

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### Course Description and Objectives

This course treats World War I as a central set of formative moments in the political, economic, social, and cultural history of twentieth-century Europe. By exploring developments in diplomacy, incorporating experiences from both military front and home front, and considering the ways in which people have sought to organize and articulate their memories about the war, the course aspires to introduce students to the complexities of historical process and to understand war as something broader (and more profound) than a set of military engagements. **THUS:** This is a course on the *entire experience of war* and is *not* limited strictly to military history. The course is guaranteed to be mind-blowing and profoundly intense.

In diligently fulfilling all the requirements for this course, students will gain a basic and fundamental understanding of the reasons for the war's outbreak; explore different dimensions of the experience of war (including both combat and the home front); analyze the complexities of the post-war situation, including the peace treaties, continued violence in East-Central Europe after 1918, and the efforts of survivors of the war to mourn the dead and come to terms with the enormity of their losses; develop core skills in representing the subjective outlooks of historical actors; improve their writing and analytical skills; develop new capacities for summarizing and making historical connections; attain basic geographical knowledge of Europe and Eurasia; and learn how to access scholarly articles in electronic form through the on-line library catalog.

### On Readings

Most of the readings come from the texts listed below, but in some cases students will have to access readings in other forms. First, a set of primary readings is posted directly on the course web site under the heading "Web Reader," and this may be downloaded directly to your computer. Second, a few readings are located in journals that may be accessed in electronic form through the on-line library catalog (you will need a student card with a bar code and a PIN). Third, two readings from print sources have been xeroxed and must be accessed either through the Web Campus site for this course (under the category "course content") or, if students prefer, at the reserve desk in the library. Finally, the reading in one case comes from an e-book, also available through the library's on-line catalog. You are responsible for doing all readings by the designated class session, regardless of what form the reading takes. If you encounter any problems, I will be happy to help, for example by simply giving you a copy of the given text that you can either read or copy. Technical excuses for not having done the readings are not acceptable.

### Required Texts

Vera Brittain, Testament of Youth (Penguin, 2005).

Gordon Martel, ed. Origins of the First World War, 3rd ed. (Longman, 2008).

Stéphane Audoin-Rouzeau and Annette Becker, 14-18: Understanding the Great War (New York: Hill and Wang, 2002).

Frans Coetzee and Marilyn Shevin-Coetzee, eds., World War I: A History in Documents (Oxford University Press, 2002).

Erik Goldstein, The First World War Peace Settlements, 1919-1925 (Longman, 2002).

### Requirements & Grades

**Flawless attendance and vigorous, animated participation (10%):** Excessive absences will be detrimental if not fatal to your final grade. You should be animated in discussions and prepared to demonstrate your serious engagement with the material. All readings (except those labeled “recommended”) are obligatory.

**Geography quizzes (10%):** These quizzes are designed to ensure that students have a grasp of the geographic features essential to understanding the developments of the war. I allow students to take each quiz a second time, counting both the original score and the new one as 50% of the final grade for that quiz. But in order to take a quiz a second time, *you must do so within one week of its first offering*, and you must do so on your own time. If you miss a quiz and have not made arrangements with me, *you will receive a zero, and you forfeit the opportunity to retake it*. Details on the geography quizzes may be found on the web site.

**Diplomatic Conferences (20%):** We will conduct two conferences designed to simulate the atmosphere and diplomatic positions of various states/groups on the eve of the war’s outbreak and during the peace negotiations after the war. Each student will choose either a state or some population group that he or she will represent at the conference. In preparation, she or he will write a short, three-page “position paper” outlining the principal aspirations and concerns of his/her state/group. Details are available on the web site. Because the conferences depend crucially on your serious and timely preparation, *no late position papers whatsoever will be accepted*, and your failure to prepare for the conference will be treated as a most heinous crime.

**Book Review (15%):** You will be asked to write a paper of 4-5 pages on the Vera Brittain memoir. Details are available on the web.

**Mid-Term Examination (20%).** The mid-term will test all knowledge accumulated by the date of the exam.

**Final Exam (25%):** This will be an in-class exercise that comprehensively reviews the material for the entire course. Details on the final will be available later in the semester.

Written assignments are due at class time on the day indicated in the syllabus. Students are encouraged (but are not required) to submit written work to the instructor electronically, using Microsoft Word or a compatible program (saved as ".doc" rather than "docx"). Electronic submissions will be considered on-time if they were sent prior to the start of class on the day that they are due. Late submissions will be downgraded seven points (on a 100-point scale) for each day that they are late and will be accepted only with an accompanying one-page explanation for why they are late and why the instructor should accept them. All written submissions must be typed, using a 12-point font, double space, and one-inch margins. Each submission must also have a title. Papers that exhibit a complete absence of proofreading may be returned to the author as unacceptable. Any submission not conforming to these guidelines may be rejected entirely. A full description of my guidelines is available on the web site. Unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor, students will not be permitted to make up any missed exam.

### **Religious Holidays and Disabilities**

As regards religious holidays, I am sympathetic to students' religious needs and will make every effort to accommodate them. Students **MUST**, however, inform me of such needs at the beginning of the term so that we can work our way around them judiciously. The Disability Resource Center (DRC) coordinates all academic accommodations for students with documented disabilities. The DRC is the official office to review and house disability documentation for students, and to provide them with an official Academic Accommodation Plan to present to the faculty if an accommodation is warranted. Faculty should not provide students accommodations without being in receipt of this plan. UNLV complies with the provisions set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, offering reasonable accommodations to qualified students with documented disabilities. If you have a documented disability that may require accommodations, you will need to contact the DRC for the coordination of services. The DRC is located in the Student Services Complex (SSC), Room 137, and the contact numbers are: Voice (702) 895-0866, TTY (702) 895-0652, fax (702) 895-0651. For additional information, please visit: <http://studentlife.unlv.edu/disability/>.

### **Course Schedule With Readings**

#### **TOPIC A: EUROPEAN VALUES, ASSUMPTIONS, & ATTITUDES**

MON (Jan 12): Introduction (no reading)

WED (Jan 14): Coetzee & Shevin-Coetzee, World War I: Documents, 6-26

#### **NO CLASS 19 JANUARY: MLK DAY**

WED (Jan 21): Gordon Martel, ed., Origins of the First World War, 3-15, 123-125  
F. T. Marinetti, "Futurist Manifesto" of 1909 [web reader]  
Manifesto of International Socialist Congress at Basel [web reader]  
Peter Durnovo's Memorandum to the Tsar of 1914 [web reader].

#### **TOPIC B: DIPLOMACY & OUTBREAK OF WAR**

MON (Jan 26): Martel, Origins, 16-49, 90-99  
**First Geography Quiz: Europe in 1914**

WED (Jan 28): Martel, Origins, 50-78, 100-123

MON (Feb 2): Martel, Origins, 79-87  
Coetzee & Shevin-Coetzee, 26-37  
Recommended (but not required): Samuel Williamson & Ernest May, "An Identity of Opinion: Historians and July 1914," Journal of Modern History 79 (June 2007): 335-387 [thru on-line library catalog]

WED (Feb 4): DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE: The "July Crisis"  
 No collective reading (but read for your papers!)  
**Conference papers due**

### TOPIC C: MOBILIZING SOLDIERS, MOBILIZING SOCIETY

MON (Feb 9): Audoin-Rouzeau & Becker, 14-18: Understanding, 92-112

WED (Feb 11): Coetzee & Shevin-Coetzee, 39-55

#### **NO CLASS 16 FEBRUARY: PRESIDENTS' DAY**

WED (Feb 18): Audoin-Rouzeau & Becker, 113-171  
 Coetzee & Shevin-Coetzee, 107-113

MON (Feb 23): Audoin-Rouzeau & Becker, 14-44  
 Coetzee & Shevin-Coetzee, 57-71

WED (Feb. 25): Coetzee & Shevin-Coetzee, 71-79  
 Magda Trott, "Woman's Work, a Substitute for Men's?" [web reader]  
 Helena Swanwick, *The War in its Effect Upon Women* [web reader]

MON (Mar 2): **MID-TERM EXAMINATION**

### TOPIC D: THE WAR GROWS TOTAL

WED (Mar 4): Audoin-Rouzeau & Becker, 45-69  
 Recommended (but not required): Susan Grayzel, "'The Souls of  
 Soldiers': Civilians Under Fire in First World War France,"  
Journal of Modern History 78 (2006): 588-622 [thru on-line  
 library catalog]

MON (Mar 9): Coetzee & Shevin-Coetzee, 81-105

WED (Mar 11): Audoin-Rouzeau & Becker, 70-90

MON (Mar 16): Vejas Gabriel Liulevicius, "The Movement Policy," from War Land on  
 the Eastern Front: Culture, National Identity, and German  
 Occupation in World War I (Cambridge, 2000), pp. 89-112 [e-  
 book available through on-line library catalog].

## TOPIC E: ERODING DISCIPLINE: PROTEST, DESERTION, REVOLUTION

- WED (Mar 18): Coetzee & Shevin-Coetzee, 115-139
- MON (Mar 23): Barbara Alpern Engel, "Not By Bread Alone: Subsistence Riots in Russia During World War I," Journal of Modern History 69 (Dec. 1997): 696-721 [thru on-line library catalog].

## TOPIC F: 1918: FROM BREST-LITOVSK TO 11 NOVEMBER

- WED (Mar 25): C. F. Wargelin, "A High Price for Bread: The First Treaty of Brest-Litovsk and the Break-Up of Austria-Hungary," International History Review 19.4 (1997): 757-788 [Web Campus for HIS 348 or library reserve].  
Three documents on Brest-Litovsk [web reader]
- MON (Mar 30): Roger Chickering, "The War Ends," from Imperial Germany and the Great War, 1914-1918 (Cambridge, 1998), pp. 168-191 [Web Campus HIS 348 or library reserve].  
Hindenburg's Appeal for Negotiations [web reader].  
Allied Armistice Terms [web reader].
- WED (Apr 1): Josh Sanborn, "Unsettling the Empire: Violent Migrations and Social Disaster in Russia During World War I," Journal of Modern History 77 (June 2005): 290-324 [thru on-line library].

**NO CLASS 6 & 8 APRIL: SPRING BREAK**

## TOPIC G: PEACEMAKING (AND WARFARE PROLONGED)

- MON (Apr 13): Coetzee & Shevin-Coetzee, 141-151  
Erik Goldstein, First World War Peace Settlements, 1-33, 97-106  
**2nd Geo Quiz: Europe, Africa, & Middle East in 1922**
- WED (Apr 15): Goldstein, 34-68, 107-115
- MON (Apr 20): DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE: The Paris Peace Conference  
Goldstein, 69-95, 118-122  
**Conference papers due**

**TOPIC H: MEMORY & MOURNING**

- WED (Apr 22):      Audoin-Rouzeau & Becker, 174-202  
                          Ludendorff on Overcoming the Lost War, 1922 [web reader]
- MON (Apr 27):      Audoin-Rouzeau & Becker, 203-225  
                          Coetzee & Shevin-Coetzee, 151-161
- WED (Apr 29):      Audoin-Rouzeau & Becker, 226-237  
                          Goldstein, 80-95, 119-122

**PAPERS ON VERA BRITAIN DUE FRIDAY 1 May 2009 at 12.00 Noon**

**FINAL EXAM: WEDNESDAY 6 May 2009, 8.00 AM**